

Message Text

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FOR: IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: WATCH LIST FEB. 18

BOTH MORNING PAPERS IN STOCKHOLM LINK PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS WITH SPEECH GIVEN FEB. 23 BY SWEDISH FORMIN KARIN SODER BEFORE THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. AS REPORTED IN LEAD OF STORY IN LIBERAL DAGENS NYHETER FEB. 24, FORMIN KARIN SODER BEFORE THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. AS REPORTED IN LEAD OF STORY IN LIBERAL DAGENS NYHETER FEB. 24 FORMIN SAID THAT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS CAN BECOME A THREAT TO DETENTE, THAT RISKS FOR DETENTE ARE CREATED BY THOSE WHO VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS AND NOT BY THOSE WHO PROTEST AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT 'WE ARE ACTUALLY CONVINCED THAT WHEN THE OPINION IN A LAND SUCH AS OURS CLARIFIES THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH OPPRESSION, IT SERVES A CONSTRUCTIVE AIM.'

2. SAME PAPER, DAGENS NYHETER, COMMENTS EDITORIALY: "COMPARING THE COMMENTS IN THE WESTERN WORLD ABOUT CARTER'S CRITICISM OF THE UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION IN THE EAST, ONE FINDS TWO MAIN LINES. EITHER COMMENTATORS PRAISE CARTER WITHOUT SAYING A WORD
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ABOUT THE RISKS FOR THE DETENTE CLIMATE, OR THEY SAY THAT CARTER, CONSIDERING HIS DISARMAMENT ATTEMPTS, SHOULD TAKE IT A LITTLE EASY AND BEAR IN MIND THE VALUE OF TOLERABLE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS NOW WHEN THERE IS A HURRY FOR COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS. BUT IN SWEDEN WE SIMPLY SAY RATHER THAT CRITICISM IS GOOD FOR DETENTE... IN PRACTICE, WE KNOW THAT CRITICISM DISCOURAGINGLY OFTEN ONLY LEADS TO DEADLOCKS WITH THOSE CRITICIZED. AND TO LOOK AT

THE PROBLEM FROM ANOTHER ANGLE: HOW MANY IN THE SWEDISH ESTABLISHMENT DIDN'T FEEL THEMSELVES OPENLY OR SECRETLY EASED WHEN THE WAR IN VIETNAM ENDED AND ONE COULD STOP CRITICIZING THE US AND HOPE THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD BECOME GOOD HUMORED AGAIN TOWARD SWEDEN? BUT IT IS GOOD THAT KARIN SODER STATES AS A CLEAR SWEDISH OPINION THAT 'DEEPENED DETENTE DEMANDS GREATER FREEDOM FOR PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR OWN THOUGHTS' -- AND THAT MILITARY DETENTE MEASURES ARE ALSO REQUIRED."

3. MODERATE SVENSKA DAGBLADET COMMENTS: "THOSE SECTIONS IN THE SPEECH WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED TO AROUSE GREATEST INTEREST EVEN OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY CONCERN THE HELSINKI DECLARATION AND ITS FOLLOW-UP. MRS. SODER OPPOSED, WITHOUT NAMING NAMES, THE INTERPRETATION PRODUCED BY THE RUSSIANS, MOST RECENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO PEACE PRIZE WINNER SAKHAROV. SHE POINTS OUT, WITH REFERENCE TO (THE FACT) THAT THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE 'HAS RADICALLY CHANGES IN THE EAST AND IN THE WEST' AFTER THE WAR, THAT THE DOCUMENT FROM HELSINKI MUST BE SEEN AS A BALANCED WHOLE: 'IT MEANS THAT NO STATE CAN CITE THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE AS REASON TO REJECT OTHER COUNTRIES' INTEREST IN HOW THE COMMITMENTS TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO PERMIT REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES ARE CARRIED OUT IN PRACTICE'. THAT NATURALLY DOESN'T MEAN, THE FOREIGN MINISTER POINTED OUT, THAT THIS INTEREST MUST TAKE THE FORM OF ATTEMPTS TO FORCE THE COUNTRY CONCERNED TO CHANGE ITS POLITICAL STRUCTURE OR THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND ITS SECURITY POLICY. CERTAINLY, NEITHER PRESIDENT CARTER NOR ANYBODY ELSE HAD ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN MIND."

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4. AN INNOVATION IN SVENSKA DAGBLADET FEB. 24: A FOUR-COLUMN, MID-PAGE SECTION OF THE EDIT PAGE QUOTING FOREIGN PRESS REACTION TO CARTER'S SAKHAROV LETTER, TOPPED BY A FOUR-COL CARTOON SHOWING BREZHNEV PULLING A HANGMAN'S ROPE KNOTTED AROUND SAKHAROV'S THROAT. CARTOON FROM L'EXPRESS, PARIS: QUOTES, MOSTLY FAVORABLE, COME FROM FINANCIAL TIMES LONDON TIMES, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, NY TIMES (RESTON) AND LE MONDE.
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Message Attributes

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